



Data Management and Communications Committee

Minutes

AOOS DMAC Committee Meeting Friday, January 27, 2006 Captain Cook Hotel, Easter Island Room Anchorage, Alaska

Draft: 10 February 2006

Attending: Rob Cermak (AOOS Data Manager and UAF), Amy Fish (NWS, Marine Program Manager), Allison Gaylord (BASC), Stephen Gebert (ADF&G Database Programmer, via phone), Tom Heinrichs (GINA, UAF), Jim Jones (NWS, AK Region, Chief Data Acquisition Branch), Igor Katrayev (Data Manager, NPRB), Allen Macklin (NOAA, PMEL, via phone), Molly McCammon (AOOS Executive Director), Bernard Megrey (NOAA, NMFS-rapporteur), Scott Pegau (KBRR), Carl Schoch (AOOS/NPRB), Warren Horowitz (Oceanographer, MMS)

AOOS and DMAC: Review

The meeting began with introductions and a review of the agenda and meeting goals.

Since the last DMAC meeting was January 2005, Megrey did a short review of AOOS highlights from last year.

- Last DMAC meeting in January 2005 proposed DMAC standards and protocols based on the SEACOOS model.
- A PWS Pilot Project technical subcommittee meeting was held where
 - a strategy and timeline for the PWS all-hands meeting was developed, and
 - a demonstration of the new AOOS website was scheduled for the 2006 Alaska Marine Science Symposium.
- In June 2005, the PWS Pilot Project all-hands meeting was held in Cordova where there were presentations on the RAMS and ROMS models, a demonstration of the prototype AOOS website, discussion of user needs, and other activities.
- The first data was served on the AOOS website in March 2005, and there has been sustained, frequent access since July 2005.

AOOS and IOOS: Current Status and New Developments

IOOS – Molly McCammon reported on the status of AOOS and IOOS development. Implementation of the national program is moving forward slowly. The big issue is funding. There is nothing in the President's 2006 or 2007 budgets, but it looks like IOOS will be in the President's budget in 2008. There is already \$90M currently being allocated to IOOS in various pieces, and the powers-that-be are trying to convince Congress that program accomplishments are not well coordinated, and work being done through earmarks is not the way to proceed. From meetings with influential leaders, it is known that IOOS is a top priority in the President's plan, but with no new funding. A serious operational program cannot exist on earmarks alone. Hurricane Katrina, which could have increased clamor for a national ocean observing system,



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may have actually hindered this effort, as the emphasis appears to be on reconstruction not on forecasts.

AOOS has a \$3M earmark through Senator Stevens for \$2M in 2005 and \$1.7M in 2006. AOOS has also been successful in obtaining an annual grant of about \$380,000 a year from NOAA for development of the AOOS regional association, including staff and office costs, planning and workshops, including the DMAC Committee. So far AOOS has received this grant in 2005 and 2006, and we anticipate it also in 2007.

Two weeks ago, NOAA put out a request for quotes (RFQ) to develop a systems engineering wiring diagram for nationwide IOOS architecture. The goal is to design an enterprise network for IOOS. Two awards for up to \$2M were requested with a quick turnaround and with a product target due-date sometime this summer. Lack of such architecture was cited as a potential reason why funding has not been forthcoming. Efforts are underway through IOOS authorizing legislation currently working its way through Congress to establish an interagency IOOS program office and provide federal-level liability coverage for the Regional Associations (RAs).

There was a short discussion on the best strategy to move AOOS forward and demonstrate progress relative to the money that will eventually materialize and how best to compete for it. The AOOS data system is perceived as being advanced and the data manager is viewed as a key leader in the RA picture— as evidenced by requests for Rob Cermak's help and assistance and recognition of his expertise. There is some concern among the RAs that the federal government will support the backbone and let the RAs flounder if funding comes up short. Legislation that has passed the Senate would require that 50% of IOOS funds go to the regions.

Alaska Needs: Metadata

Igor Katrayev attended a FGDC metadata workshop in Boulder CO and received training, especially in the new Biological Data profile. He intends to implement this standard as the core NPRB metadata collection approach.

Within an agency, the importance of metadata needs to be sold to the agency to convince them it is in their own best interest to do it. Would a useful product to the agency be motivation enough for them to produce metadata that could be used by AOOS?

Collecting and maintaining metadata is expensive and an ongoing operational cost. AOOS data management is not presently serving metadata, yet we need to have some preliminary plans in place to address this important need. Otherwise the AOOS data will not be discoverable.

It was suggested to make metadata reporting a mandatory requirement for receiving AOOS funding, similar to the way NPRB and GEM operate.



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Website Demonstration and DMAC Comments

Rob Cermak, AOOS Data Manager, gave a demonstration of the AOOS web site and data presentation formats. Real-time data presentation is challenged a bit by the frequency that data systems transmit information, for example NWS data buoys.

The site needs a way to acknowledge from where data contributions originate.

All agreed that Rob has made significant progress, and all were pleased with the website's organization and appearance.

A demonstration of the performance and access metrics showed that they could be useful indicators of popular data targets and reveal user origin.

Satellite Data: Status

Tom Heinrichs shared that incorporation of maps and GINA products into the AOOS website is nearly accomplished. After completion of that step, he and Rob will begin to phase in ocean products.

Coming up in the fall is a remote sensing workshop with NOAA/NESDIS and NASA. Items to be discussed include what products are needed by the coastal community from existing satellite coverage and what needs to be planned for over a longer planning horizon.

Action Items for AOOS DMAC team (random list)

In the next 6 months, work will continue on migrating working applications from the PWS page to Cook Inlet and SE Alaska pages. This should be complete by fall 2006.

More time will be spent on getting data and real-time data feeds information for the whole state. What are real-time assets? What are national assets? Find these and populate the appropriate web pages.

Add a utility for viewing satellite data.

Have a graduate student test AOOS web pages end-to-end to identify things that need to be changed, fixed, or improved.

Prepare a tutorial for user groups and get their focused feedback.

Develop plans for preparing customized pages for different user groups.

Add a "definition of terms" page to the site with links from other pages.



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Provide more developed comparisons between observations and predicted data.

Develop a page to give credit to data contributors. Other systems use this kind of information to notify data providers that there is a planned outage.

Do something useful with web logs as to where people are going and where they are coming from.

Remember to deliver biological data where available.

In the near future, if Rob Cermak has anything he wants the committee to look at, he can contact them via email with any specific request.

Next AOOS DMAC meeting

It was suggested that a meeting take place next fall, for example October 2006.



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Agenda

AOOS DMAC Committee Meeting

Friday, January 27, 2006

Captain Cook Hotel, Easter Island Room, 4th and K Street Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Goals:

- 1) Update the committee on current AOOS and IOOS data management issues.
- 2) Advise AOOS data manager how to
 - Move forward with metadata
 - Move forward with data transport
 - Help Alaskan agencies and institutions deliver metadata and data to AOOS.

The committee will address each topic by:

- a. Discussing and demonstrating current status, problems, unresolved issues
- b. Reviewing current AOOS data management plans
- c. Reviewing current guidance from IOOS DMAC
- d. Soliciting supplemental information and demonstrations from DMAC members
- e. Conducting a free-for-all discussion and brainstorming
- f. Developing action items and noting feedback.

Agenda

08:30 a.m.	Welcome, introductions and recap of the last year's AOOS DMAC activities	Bern Megrey & Allen Macklin
08:45 a.m.	IOOS & AOOS Status	Molly McCammon
09:00 a.m.	Cataloging data (<i>Metadata</i> topic)	Rob Bochenek & DMAC Committee
09:45 a.m.	State of AOOS Data Management Metadata, Data Transport, Archive, Guidance to Data Providers, Information flow (<i>Data delivery</i> topic)	Rob Cermak & DMAC Committee
10:30 a.m.	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 a.m.	Data Delivery-Continued	Rob Cermak & DMAC Committee
11:30 a.m.	Getting specific (<i>Help Alaskans</i> topic).....	Bern Megrey & DMAC Committee
12:00	<i>Lunch (provided)</i>	
12:30 a.m.	Feedback on AOOS web design -.....	DMAC Committee
	visual, data, metadata delivery issues	



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13:00 p.m. Summary of comments, suggestions Allen Macklin
and action items for AOOS data management

13:30 p.m. *Adjourn*